

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/790,143

Examiner

Barbara J. Musser

Applicant(s)

KEGASAWA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview summary dated 5/24/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-11 and 13-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/071,183.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 5/24/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Allison Tulino on 5/24/06.

The application has been amended as follows: The claims have been amended as on the attached pages.

The title has been changed to --Laminate Production Apparatus--.

In the specification amendment dated 3/2/04 inserting material before the first line, --now U.S. Patent 6896832—has been added after "2002".

Drawings

The drawings filed 3/2/04 are accepted by the examiner.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest an apparatus for laminating a running support and a film together using a cooling roller and a nip roller having a gas source for a gas permeable through the film, wherein the gas jet nozzle is perpendicular to the surface of the cooling roller and is located 90 degrees or less from the nip. While Komai et al.

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discloses the gas jet nozzle is within 90 degrees of the nip, it is clearly not intended to be perpendicular to the cooling roller since Figure 2 shows a blade(10) forcing the air to one side, suggesting that having the gas jet perpendicular to the cooling roller would not be desired by the reference. While Wade shows the gas jet nozzle is perpendicular to the cooling roll, it is not 90 degrees or less from the nip, but rather closer to 120 degrees from the nip. It is noted that the nip point is considered to be where the cooling roll and nip roll are closest. The gas is steam, which is not intended to be permeable through the resin film. While Turi discloses the gas nozzle being within 90 degrees of the nip, the gas curtain is not between the nozzle and the cooling roller, but between the nozzle and the film, it is not perpendicular to the cooling roll, and the gas is not intended to be permeable through the resin film but to force the film against the cooling roll. Finally, the gas curtain of Turi appears to be comprised of discrete round nozzles,(Figure 2) which do not form a gas curtain extending in a width direction of the cooling roller. The gas curtain extending in a width direction is considered to mean that the gas stream forms a sheet which is parallel to the axis of the roller.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara J. Musser whose telephone number is (571)

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272-1222. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday; alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571)-272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



BJM



**SAM CHUAN YAO
PRIMARY EXAMINER**